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COUNTY OF PEEBLES
AND BURGHS OF
PEEBLES AND INNERLEITHEN

ANNUAL REPORT

BY

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Year 1947



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THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Year 1947

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CONTENTS

	PAGE.
Staff	5
Preface	6
Vital Statistics	9
Medical Services—	
Maternity and Child Welfare—	
Births	11
Infantile Mortality	11
Maternal Mortality	11
Home Visitation	11
Ante and Post-Natal Clinics	12
Child Welfare Clinics	12
Special Treatment Centres	12
Mother and Baby Homes	14
Residential Nurseries and Children's Homes	14
Home and Domestic Helps	14
Maternity Services Scheme	14
Supply of Food and Milk	14
Supply of Vitamins	14
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	15
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	15
Supervisor of Midwives	15
School Children	15
Infectious Diseases—	
Notifications	15
Diphtheria Immunisation	16
Tuberculosis—	
Notifications	16
Deaths	18
Treatment	18
Allowances	19
Venereal Disease	19
Supply of Insulin	20
Cancer	20
Mental Health Service	20
Nursing of Sick Poor	20

CONTENTS (*Contd.*)

	PAGE.
Hospitals—	
General	21
Infectious Disease	21
Chronic Sick	21
Sanatoria	21
Maternity	21
Children	21
Convalescent Homes	21
Nursing Homes	21
Ambulance Facilities	22
Health Education	22
Food Supply—	
Milk	22
Meat and Other Foods	23
Food Poisoning	23
Nutrition	23
General Sanitation—	
Water	23
Drainage and Rivers Pollution	23
Factories Act 1937	24
Housing	24

STAFF.

JOINTLY WITH MIDLOTHIAN COUNTY COUNCIL AND SMALL BURGH AUTHORITIES

Medical Officer of Health:

JOHN RIDDELL, M.D., D.P.H.

JOINTLY WITH MIDLOTHIAN COUNTY COUNCIL

Depute Medical Officer of Health:

HAROLD J. FRASER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Senior Assistant Medical Officer:

GEO. J. SUMMERS, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officers:

J. WALLACE GORDON, L.R.C.P. & L.R.C.S. (Edin.), D.P.H., L.D.S.

BETTY C. HAMILTON, L.R.C.P. & L.R.C.S. (Edin.), D.P.H., L.D.S.

Senior Dental Officer:

ROBERT P. NEILSON, L.D.S.

**Senior Health Visitor, Superintendent of Nurses
and Supervisor of Midwives:**

MISS P. BENNETT.

Milk Officer:

MISS H. B. SWORD (Appointed 16/10/47).

Clerks:

MISS J. PATERSON

MISS J. THOMSON

MISS J. BORTHWICK

MISS A. N. WHYTE.

MISS E. A. MELROSE. (Appointed 16/9/47)

PEEBLES COUNTY

County Sanitary Inspector:

JAS. M. M. FERGUSON.

Health Visitors:

(Full-time)

MISS A. DOULL.

(Part-time)

MRS E. HOGG.

MISS M. S. RAMAGE.

MISS S. McDONALD.

MISS A. V. STEELE.

PEEBLES BURGH

Burgh Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector:

E. S. DUNCAN.

INNERLEITHEN BURGH

Burgh Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector:

WILLIAM F. THOMSON.

PREFACE

General.

The National Health Service (Scotland) Act comes into operation this year. The present report is therefore the last of a series which began in 1930 when the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1929 also made many alterations in Local Authority health functions. Criticism of the services evolved under the 1929 Act because of the centralisation involved, and because of the loss of expert advice arising from local knowledge, has been frequent. Now various functions are being taken out of the hands of county authorities and transferred to regional authorities and there is the inherent possibility that loss of interest may be carried a stage further.

This must not be allowed to happen. Even although not directly responsible, it is the duty of local representatives to keep themselves and their committees and electors informed of the work being done, and to ensure that local points of view and needs are made known to the central bodies. Only in this way can an effective service be strengthened and expanded to meet requirements.

Under the new Act, the local authorities lose control of certain services, but their responsibilities are greatly increased in other directions which are even more vital. They remain the spearpoint of the PREVENTIVE services, the most essential of all. Much is heard at the present moment of the shortage of doctors, nurses, hospital beds, etc., and various suggestions have been made as to the remedy. Surely the correct answer is simple. Reduce the number of patients! This can be done as the result of a first class preventive service based on research and experience, and the responsibility for this has been left with the local authorities. Let them gird their loins and advance to the fray with courage and faith.

Vital Statistics.

The Birth Rate for 1947 shows an increase and the Death Rate a decrease, which is very satisfactory, but as the Birth Rate is still lower and the Death Rate higher than for Scotland as a whole (excluding the Large Burghs), this indicates that the trend towards depopulation is not yet reversed, though it is slowed down.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

It is pleasing to record that the improvement evident last year in the attendances at the Child Welfare Clinics has been maintained, particularly in the case of Peebles.

	1945.		1946.		1947.	
	Children.	Attend- ances.	Children.	Attend- ances.	Children.	Attend- ances.
Peebles	92	594	141	866	162	1186
Innerleithen	88	506	130	703	111	820

As well as this there has been an increase in the amount of home supervision given by the Health Visitors.

Infectious Disease.

Incidence during the year remained at a low level. Even in the case of poliomyelitis, despite the nation-wide epidemic, there was only one case and that in a soldier home on leave who had contracted the infection outwith the County.

The diphtheria immunisation campaign continued throughout the year and only two cases of diphtheria were notified.

Tuberculosis.

This year has seen a considerable and very welcome fall in incidence. There is no doubt but that the increase in the proportion of tuberculin tested and attested herds in the area and the intensive efforts which have now been in operation for the past three years in respect of examination of contacts, are bearing fruit.

Venereal Disease.

With venereal disease also there is a welcome fall in the number of cases.

Chronic Sick.

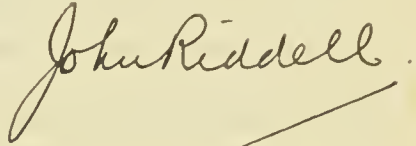
1947 was the first full year in which Kingsland was available for the care of old people who were physically handicapped in some way and were unable to care for themselves in their own homes, either alone or with outside help. Unfortunately, although 20 beds were available it was not possible to make full use of them because of shortage of staff. This difficulty has now been overcome and the pressing need is now being met.

Milk Supply.

The quality of the milk supply continued to have considerable attention and this year particular note was taken of the retail position. Improvements have been suggested in premises in several instances, and it is expected that these will be effected, with beneficial results, early in 1948. During the year an additional Milk Officer was appointed in conjunction with Midlothian and this allowed one member of the three to be stationed in Peebles and employ her full time in Peeblesshire.

Environmental Services.

Detailed information regarding these is given in the Reports of the respective Sanitary Inspectors.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "John Riddell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
10 DRUMSHEUGH GARDENS,
EDINBURGH, 3.
1st April 1948.

COUNTY OF PEEBLES.

VITAL STATISTICS, YEAR 1947.

	Peebles County.	Inner- leithen Burgh.	Peebles Burgh.	Land- ward Area.
Population, Census 1931	15,051	2,359	5,853	6,839
Population estimated 1947	14,992	2,233	5,883	6,876
Number of Live Births (corrected)	277	49	120	108
Illegitimate Births	6	1	2	3
Still Births	6	3	1	2
Number of Deaths	201	28	103	70
Marriages Registered	109	16	54	39

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES FOR COUNTY

(Landward and Burghal) per 1,000 of Population.

	1947.	1946.	Scotland.*
Birth Rate (corrected)	18.5	16.8	21.4
Death Rate All Causes (corrected)	13.4	14.4	12.6
Death Rate Tuberculosis (corrected)20	.35	.58
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live Births	36.0	32.0	45.0
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total births	21.0	35.0	31.0

*Excluding Large Burghs.

Ages at Death.

Number of Deaths in the various age groups during 1947.

	Peebles County.	Innerleithen Burgh.	Peebles Burgh.	Landward Area.
Under 1	10	4	3	3
1—4	—	—	—	—
5—9	2	1	—	1
10—14	—	—	—	—
15—24	1	—	—	1
25—34	2	1	—	1
35—44	3	—	1	2
45—54	14	3	7	4
55—64	34	4	18	12
65—74	52	8	26	18
75—84	57	5	34	18
85 and over	26	2	14	10
All Ages	201	28	103	70

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Peebles County.	Inner- leithen Burgh.	Peebles Burgh.	Land- ward Area.
Typhoid Fever (including Paratyphoid)	—	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	—	—	1
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	—	1	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	1	—	—
Syphilis	—	—	—	—
Influenza	1	—	—	1
Measles	—	—	—	—
Other infectious or parasitic disease	1	—	—	1
Cancer, malignant tumours	26	2	14	10
Tumours, non-malignant or not defined	—	—	—	—
Acute Rheumatism	—	—	—	—
Diabetes mellitus	4	2	1	1
Other General Diseases	1	—	1	—
Meningitis, Diseases of Spinal Cord	1	—	—	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc. . . .	25	3	13	9
Other Diseases of Nervous System	2	—	—	2
Heart Disease	67	3	43	21
Other Circulatory Diseases	10	2	6	2
Bronchitis	8	1	4	3
Pneumonia	10	1	6	3
Other respiratory Diseases	—	—	—	—
Gastric and Duodenal Ulcer	4	2	1	1
Diarrhoea (all ages)	2	—	2	—
Appendicitis	1	1	—	—
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	—	1	—
Other Diseases of Liver	—	—	—	—
Other Digestive Diseases	1	—	1	—
Nephritis, Acute or Chronic	3	3	—	—
Other Diseases of Genito-urinary System	2	—	2	—
Puerperal Sepsis	1	—	—	1
Other Puerperal Causes	—	—	—	—
Diseases of Skin and Organs of Movement	—	—	—	—
Congen. Debil., Prem. Birth, Malformation, etc. . . .	8	4	2	2
Old Age	5	2	—	3
Suicide	—	—	—	—
Road Transport Accidents	2	1	—	1
Other Violence	4	—	3	1
Causes ill-defined or unknown	7	—	2	5
All Ages	201	28	103	70

A. MEDICAL SERVICES.

I. Maternity and Child Welfare.

Births.

(a) Total number of births (live plus still) occurring in the area during the year	259
(b) Number of births in (a) classified according to nature of attendance at confinement:—	
(i) Maternity Services Scheme Cases—	
(a) With doctor	42
(b) Without doctor	7
(ii) Other domiciliary Cases—	
(a) With doctor	24
(b) With midwife alone (no doctor booked)	—
(c) Conducted by outdoor staff of institution	—
(d) Without doctor or midwife	—
(iii) Institutional Cases (including those in private maternity and nursing homes)	186

No private midwives practised in the County during the year.

Infantile Mortality.

Deaths classified according to age groups.

	Under 1 week.	1 to 4 weeks.	1 to 3 months.	3 to 6 months.	6 to 12 months.	Total.
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	1	1
Prematurity	4	1	—	—	—	5
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	1	1	—	—	—	2
Congenital Debility	2	—	—	—	—	2
Total	7	2	—	—	1	10

Two of these children were born under the Maternity Services Scheme.

Maternal Mortality.

(a) Deaths from Puerperal Fever	—
(b) Deaths from other Puerperal Causes	1

Home Visitation.

	Number of Cases.	Total Visits.
Expectant Mothers	35	279
Infants	458	2,499
Children 1 to 5 years	752	2,208

Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics.

No such Clinics are held in the County.

Child Welfare Clinics.

(A) The following Clinics were provided by the Local Authority.

PEEBLES.—This Clinic is held in the County Buildings on Tuesdays from 2.30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

INNERLEITHEN.—This Clinic is held in the Reading Room of the Liberal Club on every alternate Wednesday, 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

	Peebles.	Innerleithen.
Openings during year	52	23
Average number in attendance per clinic	23	36
(a) Number of children attending—		
1. Under one year.	97	61
2. Over one year	65	50
(b) Total number of attendances of children		
1. Under one year.	821	445
2. Over one year	365	375

(B) No Clinics were provided by Voluntary Bodies.

Special Treatment Centres.

No mothers were given treatment during the year.

(1) Teeth.

REPORT BY MR R. P. NEILSON, L.D.S.

Although this is the third full year during which the County Dental Service has been freely available for inspection and treatment of pre-school children it is unfortunate that greater advantage has not been taken of the service provided.

The exceptionally severe wintry weather in the early months of the year certainly had its effect on the scheme, for it was April before pre-school lists for the dentists again began to make their appearance.

The demand for pre-school dental treatment, although much better than last year, still remains rather disappointing, and many parents after promising to attend a clinic fail to do so. This may be due to the fact that pre-school clinics are usually held on Saturday mornings to avoid interference with the School Dental Service. It is however confidently hoped that facilities, now much overdue, will be granted in the near future to include the dental care of nursing and

expectant mothers as stated in the National Health Service (Scot.) Act 1947, Part 3, Section 22 which reads as follows:—
 “Care of Mothers and Young Children—It shall be the duty of every local health authority to make arrangements for the care, including in particular dental care, of expectant and nursing mothers and of children who are not attending a school . . .”

In such a service, special Maternity and Child Welfare Dental Clinics would be held regularly at fixed times and places, and a small number of pre-school children would be included at each treatment session. Attendances would as a result be improved. New avenues of treatment would be opened up for the dental officers, providing them with a greater variety of work and, to some extent, relieving the monotony and strain of working in a restricted field on one particular section of the community.

Full details of Inspection and Treatment are set out hereunder.

Inspection.

	Examined.	Referred for Treatment.
Age 2 . . .	1	—
3 . . .	5	3
4 . . .	17	16
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total . . .	23	19

Treatment.

First Visits	19
Second Visits	1
Attendances	20
Fillings	1
Extractions	12
Local Anæsthetics	12
Silver Nitrate (Howes)	52
Teeth Trimmed	4
Sessions devoted to Inspection and Treatment	4

(2) Eyes.

PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN REFERRED FOR VISUAL DEFECT.

Cases Referred.	Atten- ded Clinic.	Refused Examin- ation.	Glasses pre- scribed.	No Glasses pre- scribed.	Special Frames.	Or- dinary Frames.	Re- pairs.
1	1	—	1	—	—	1	—

(3) **Ear, Nose and Throat.**—No children treated.

(4) **Other Ailments.**—No children treated.

(5) **Ultra-violet Light Treatment.**—No children treated.

(6) **Orthopædic.**—No children treated.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

No cases were notified during the year.

Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia.

Three cases of Puerperal Fever and two of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified by doctors and removed to hospital during the year. There was one death.

REPORT BY

SUPERVISOR OF MIDWIVES AND SENIOR HEALTH VISITOR.

Supervision of Midwives—

Routine Inspections	12
Special Investigation Visits	9

Maternity and Child Welfare—

Ante-Natal Visits	8
Child Welfare Visits	23
Clinic Visits	8
Infant Life Protection Visits	4

County Nursing Association—

Visits to District Nursing Sisters	44
Visits to Hon. Secretaries	23
Attendance at Meetings	7

II. School Children.

The Report on School Medical Services is issued separately.

III. Infectious Diseases.

The following cases were notified during the year:—

	Land- ward Area.	Peebles Burgh.	Inner- leithen Burgh.	Total 1947.	Cases not admitted to Hospital.	Total 1946.
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	—	1	—	1	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	1	—	—	—	1
Diphtheria	—	1	1	2	—	8
Paratyphoid B	—	—	2	2	—	—
Puerperal Fever	3	—	—	3	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	2	—	2	—	—
Scarlet Fever	3	15	1	19	—	58
Pulmonary Tuber- culosis	6	4	1	11	8	18
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	4	—	6	6	9
Total	14	27	5	46	14	95

Excluding Tuberculosis cases, 6 cases were admitted to the City Hospital, and 23 to Galashiels Hospital.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The Scheme of Diphtheria Immunisation was continued throughout the year. Particulars are shown in the following Table:—

	1—4 years.	5—14 years.	Over 14 years.
Number immunised to end of 1947	797	2,678	1,006
Number immunised during 1947	218	55	—
Number given maintenance injection during 1947	—	746	—
Percentage immunised of those resident in the County at end of 1947	90	91	—
Number of confirmed cases of diphtheria in 1947	—	2	—
Number of deaths from diphtheria in 1947	—	—	—

Diphtheria antitoxin is provided by the Local Authority to Medical Practitioners free of charge.

IV. Tuberculosis.

REPORT BY DR G. J. SUMMERS.

During 1947, 17 cases of tuberculosis were notified, 11 being pulmonary and 6 non-pulmonary cases. The trend of notifications since 1935 is shown in the following Table:—

	1935-1939 Av.	1940-1944 Av.	1945.	1946.	1947.
Pulmonary	6	11	21	18	11
Non-Pulmonary	5	6	9	9	6
Total	11	17	30	27	17

This year's figures show that the decreased incidence commencing in 1946 has been more than maintained. The position regarding incidence is more satisfactory than the bare figures suggest. Of the 11 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified 3 were known cases who came to live within the County (transfer notifications), 1 was notified at death at the age of 76 and 1 was found to be an inactive case. This leaves only 6 new cases of active pulmonary tuberculosis discovered within the County during the year. 3 of these required hospital treatment, 2 continued under X-ray and domiciliary supervision and 1 was treated at home at his own request.

The arrangements whereby tuberculosis cases, contacts, or suspect cases are X-rayed at Morelands Hospital, were continued throughout the year. Whenever possible the X-ray films are examined and discussed with the family doctor and this enables the Tuberculosis Officer to maintain a liaison with the General Practitioners which both greatly value. During the year 57 X-rays were taken for the County at Morelands Hospital.

The portable X-ray unit purchased by Midlothian County Council has been used for 16 cases. The lack of electricity in rural houses often prevents more general use of a portable X-ray unit where it could be most usefully employed.

Area.	Notified in 1947.		Total Cases in Area.	
	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
Landward .	6	2	15	10
Peebles .	4	4	24	8
Innerleithen .	1	—	7	1
Totals	11	6	46	19

**Number of Persons Resident in the Area
at 31st December 1947,
who were known to be suffering from Tuberculosis.**

AGE GROUP.		5	10	15	25	35	45	65	Up-wards.	Total.
		Under 5	and under 10	and under 15	and under 25	and under 35	and under 45	and under 65		
Pulmonary.										
Notified 1947.	M.	—	—	—	1	3	—	1	2	7
	F.	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	1	4
Total in Area 31/12/47.	M.	—	—	—	3	8	6	3	4	24
	F.	—	—	1	7	4	8	2	—	22
Non-Pulmonary.										
Notified 1947.	M.	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	3
	F.	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	3
Total in Area 31/12/47.	M.	1	1	—	3	1	1	1	—	8
	F.	1	—	3	2	2	1	2	—	11

Number of persons who died from Tuberculosis in the Area during the year, with particulars as to period elapsing between notification and death, and between discharge from an Institution and death.

	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Number of persons who died from Tuberculosis	1	1	1	—
Of whom—				
Not notified or notified only at or after death	—	1	—	—
Notified less than one month before death	—	—	1	—
Notified from 1 to 3 months before death	—	—	—	—
Notified from 3 to 6 months before death	—	—	—	—
Notified from 6 to 12 months before death	—	—	—	—
Notified from 1 to 2 years before death	—	—	—	—
Notified over 2 years before death	1	—	—	—
Number who died within 28 days after discharge from an Institution	—	—	—	—
Number who died more than 28 days after discharge from an Institution	1	—	—	—

Treatment.

The following is a summary of the treatment provided:—

1. Admission to Sanatoria or Hospital if required.
2. Provision of medical comforts, *i.e.*, milk as an addition to ordinary diet. No patients were supplied during the year.
3. Provision of drugs (including Cod Liver Oil Emulsion or Malt, Dressings and apparatus). 3 patients were supplied with drugs in the course of the year at a cost of £7. 9s. 5d.
4. Provision of travelling expenses in special cases for patients travelling to Edinburgh for "Light Treatment." No patients attended during the year.
5. Provision for examination by X-ray. Fifty-seven cases were X-rayed at Morelands Hospital, 22 in Edinburgh and 3 in their own homes. Of these 26 were of cases, 42 were of suspects, and 14 of contacts. 4 of the suspects proved to be infected.

Sanatoria.

Cases who required sanatorium treatment have been admitted to the East Fortune Unit, Bangour, and to Drumshoreland Hospital. Drumshoreland Hospital is now concerned entirely with tuberculosis cases, and increased facilities for treatment have been made available during the year.

	In Sanatoria on 1st Jan. 1947.	Admitted during 1947.	Discharged or died during 1947.	In Sanatoria on 31st Dec. 1947.
East Fortune Unit.				
Males . .	2	1	1	2
Females. .	8	1	3	6
Children .	1	—	—	1
Drumshoreland Hospital.				
Males . .	—	1	—	1
Females. .	1	2	3	—
Tor-na-dee.				
Males . .	—	1	—	1
Bridge of Earn.				
Females. .	—	1	—	1
		Total.		
Males . .	2	3	1	4
Females. .	9	4	6	7
Children .	1	—	—	1
	12	7	7	12

After-Care of Surgical Tuberculosis.

There is an arrangement whereby cases suffering from tuberculosis of bone and joints, after treatment in East Fortune Sanatorium, are examined periodically by the consulting surgeon of the Sanatorium. These cases are mostly discharged with the progress of the disease arrested, but where a controlling apparatus is necessary.

The Tuberculosis Officer, the Medical Superintendent of East Fortune Unit, and the Surgeon together make examinations of these cases in Edinburgh and keep them under observation until the apparatus can be discarded. Two patients were examined during the year.

Tuberculosis Treatment Allowances as from 1.1.47 to 31.12.47.

Number of Applications	5
Number granted Allowance	5
Number granted special payments	1
Number refused	—
Number in receipt of Allowance during year . .	6
Total payment for year 1947	£136. 19s. 9d.

V. Venereal Diseases.

The Scheme for the treatment of persons suffering from Venereal Diseases in the County remains as before.

Patients attend for consultation and treatment at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, where they may be admitted to special wards for in-treatment if necessary.

Examinations of specimens are carried out at the Infirmary Laboratory.

Medical Practitioners in the County are supplied with the necessary outfits for taking specimens, which are sent to the Clinical Pathologist, Pathological Laboratory, Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh.

CASES ATTENDING CENTRE.

	S.		G.		SS.		N.S.D.		Nil.		Total		Grand	Attend-	Approx.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total.	ances.	No. Still attending.
1947	3	2	2	2	—	—	2	1	3	6	10	11	21	236	26
1946	1	1	7	4	—	—	12	—	12	12	32	17	49	592	20

	1947.			1946.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Admissions to Hospital	5	3	8	5	6	11
Number of days in Hospital	75	62	137	79	91	170

No notifications were received under Regulation 33B. Three notifications were received of Service Personnel who were being discharged from the Services after having had treatment for venereal disease.

Travelling expenses amounting to 2s. 2d. were paid in the course of the year for one case and several cases were treated at home by their own doctors acting on advice from the Infirmary, at a cost of £23. 5s. 0d. to avoid the necessity of travelling to Edinburgh.

VI. Supply of Insulin.

Five persons were supplied with Insulin during the course of the year at a cost of £41. 11s. 11d.

VII. Cancer.

As from 5th November 1947, an agreement was come to with Edinburgh Royal Infirmary whereby, for the annual payment of £416, provision would be made in the Royal Infirmary for accommodation, diagnosis and treatment as in-patients or out-patients of persons suffering or suspected to be suffering from any form of cancer.

Clinics are to be held daily at the Royal Infirmary and fortnightly at Galashiels Cottage Hospital in consultation with experts from the radio-therapy department.

VIII. Mental Health Service.

No special arrangements exist in the County in connection with mental disability in the pre-certification stages. It is hoped that at a reasonably early date facilities will be available for psychiatric examination of both adults and children.

IX. Nursing of Sick Poor.

This is done by the District Nursing Associations who receive grants from the Local Authority. Ambulant cases can be admitted to Galashiels Poorhouse. The following Table gives details of the Peeblesshire cases treated during the year in the Galashiels Wards:—

1. Total number of admissions	4
2. Total number of discharges	5
3. Total number of deaths	—
4. Average duration of stay of patients included in 2 and 3 (days)	75
5. Number of beds occupied—	
(a) Average during year	8
(b) Highest	10
(c) Lowest	6

X. Hospitals.

1. GENERAL.—

There are no general hospitals in the County.

2. INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—

Infectious disease cases from the eastern part of the County are taken to Galashiels Infectious Diseases Hospital and those from the west to the City Hospital, Edinburgh.

3. CHRONIC SICK.—

Following on an arrangement with the border counties, Peebles County Infectious Diseases Hospital is now known as Kingsland and is reserved for the Chronic Sick.

Kingsland.

1. Total number of admissions	30
2. Total number of discharges	7
3. Total number of deaths	15
4. Average duration of stay of patients included in 2 and 3 (days)	59
5. Number of beds occupied—	
(a) Average during period	12
(b) Highest during period	15
(c) Lowest during period	5
6. Number of Surgical Operations—	
(a) Under general or spinal anæsthesia	—
(b) Other operations	—

4. SANATORIA.—

There are no sanatoria in the County, cases of Tuberculosis being admitted to the East Fortune Unit, Bangour, or Drumshoreland Hospital, Broxburn.

5. MATERNITY.—

The Local Authority has no such Homes or Hospitals.

6. CHILDREN.—

The Local Authority has no such Homes or Hospitals.

7. CONVALESCENT HOMES.—

The Local Authority has no such Homes or Hospitals.

XI. Registration of Nursing Homes.

There are no Registered Nursing Homes in the County. There is one voluntary home run by Peeblesshire Nursing Association in Peebles Burgh which is granted exemption

from registration. It has 15 general and 11 maternity beds and takes Medical, Surgical and Maternity cases. It also possesses an up-to-date X-ray plant.

XII. Ambulance Facilities.

There are two ambulances in the County, one belonging to the County Council for transport of infectious diseases cases, and the other belonging to the St Andrew's Ambulance Association, both being stationed in Peebles Burgh. Cases from the western part of the County occasionally have the use of the Biggar ambulance.

XIII. Health Education.

While in 1946 health propaganda was limited (in extent but not in value) to personal talks by the medical, dental and nursing staffs, this year we had, in addition, three talks by Dr Macleod, the medical lecturer from the Scottish Council for Health Education. Two of these talks, which were accompanied by film shows, were given to children in Walkerburn and Kingsland Schools, and the third was given to adults in the evening in the Burgh of Peebles. Over 400 children and slightly less than 100 adults attended, the audiences appeared to be interested, and the visit was certainly a success.

B. FOOD SUPPLY.

Milk.—Producers.

During the year there was a continuing improvement in the standard of milk produced in the County, Certified producers being increased by 2, and Ungraded producers decreased by 3. At the end of the year the figures for producers were:—

Certified	2
Tuberculin Tested	44
Standard	—
Ungraded	24

Retailers.

Of the seven dairy shops, three are supplied from Creameries with pasteurised bottled milk for distribution. The other shops sell "T.T." and "Ordinary" grades. Special attention was paid to the premises of these retailers and a number of improvements were being considered at the end of the year.

School Milk.

Twelve schools are supplied with "T.T." milk, four with pasteurised, and three with ordinary milk. Sampling has shown these supplies to be satisfactory.

Milk Testing.

In November a small milk laboratory was installed and equipped in the County Buildings, and the Methylene Blue Reduction Test is carried out there instead of the samples being sent to Edinburgh. Samples for bacteriological purposes continue to go to the University Laboratory.

Meat and Other Foods.

Routine sampling of food supplies was carried out during the year. 48 official and 18 test samples were taken, one of which was found to be non-genuine and the retailer was warned. 8 cwt. 6 st. 6 lbs. of food were condemned during the year.

Slaughtering operations are confined to the Public Slaughterhouse in Peebles Burgh, the animals slaughtered during the year numbering—

Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Calves.
599	3,090	13	411

4 cattle carcasses and 2 sheep carcasses were partially condemned.

The slaughterhouse is kept in a satisfactory condition.

Food Poisoning.

There were no outbreaks of food poisoning during the year.

Nutrition.

No special action was taken in respect of the general nutrition of the population during the year. Despite the general difficulties arising from short supply and queueing the nutrition of the community as a whole continued to be satisfactory.

C. GENERAL SANITATION.

Water Supply.

The question of the adequacy of the water supply throughout the County and in the Burghs received considerable attention during the year. In the Landward area negotiations with the Department of Health regarding the proposed water supply scheme to Newlands and West Linton were continued. Proposals were also brought forward for a comprehensive supply to the village of Drumelzier. Several private supplies were developed with assistance of grant from the Department of Health. The continued need for increased storage and filtration for the Peebles Burgh supply was stressed.

Drainage and Rivers Pollution.

During the course of the year, the brickwork surrounding the filter beds at Carlops Sewage works was rebuilt. Approval

was received from the Department of Health for the replacement of the existing inefficient sewage and disposal works at West Linton.

Towards the end of the year a sand and gravel quarry was established at West Linton in which gravel is washed by water pumped from the River Lyne. Suitable ponding precautions are being taken before this water is discharged back into the Lyne, and while the condition of the river is being kept under observation no trouble has as yet arisen requiring action by the Local Authority.

Factories Act, 1937.

Inspections.

	Land-ward.	Peebles Burgh.	Inner-leithen Burgh.	Total.
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities—				
(a) Number	20	5	28	53
(b) Inspections	22	12	14	48
(c) Written Notices	1	—	—	1
(d) Prosecutions	—	—	—	—
2. Factories not included in 1, in which Section 7 is enforced	—	—	—	—
3. Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced	—	—	—	—

Defects.

(a) Found	1	1	—	2
(b) Remedied	—	1	—	1
(c) Referred to H.M. Inspector	—	—	—	—
(d) Referred by H.M. Inspector	1	1	—	2
(e) Prosecutions	—	—	—	—

Outwork.—Nil.

Housing.

The number of houses completed and occupied during the year was as follows:—

County Landward	25
Peebles Burgh	34
Innerleithen Burgh	—
Total	<u>59</u>

Owing to the lack of repairs during the war years and since, the condition of many of the older houses has deteriorated considerably, and, keeping in view the higher standard of habitability now visualised, the number of houses which will ultimately fall to be dealt with under the Housing Acts will be greatly increased in comparison with pre-war estimates.

